



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN et al.

Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER  
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR AN AUCTION  
FUNCTION IN A SUPPLY CHAIN  
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Appl. No.: 09/815,489

Filing Date: 03/23/2001

Examiner: F. Ryan Zeender

Art Unit: 3627

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

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**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.113, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

All of the documents are in English.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

**FEE**

A fee in connection with submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(c) in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

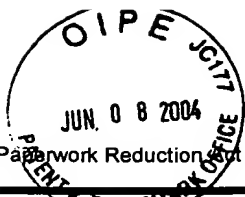
Respectfully submitted,

Date June 8, 2004

By 

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MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>Substitute for form 1449B/PTO</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> Date Submitted: June 8, 2004 (use as many sheets as necessary)		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		<b>Application Number</b>	09/815,489
<b>Sheet</b>	1	<b>Filing Date</b>	March 23, 2001
	of	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	George H. HOFFMAN et al.
	1	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	3627
		<b>Examiner Name</b>	Florian M. Zeender
		<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	062834-0175

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		5,893,076		Hafner et al.	04-06-1999	
		5,914,878		Yamamoto et al.	06-22-1999	
		5,970,475		Barnes et al.	10-19-1999	
		6,141,653		Conklin et al.	10-31-2000	
		6,148,291		Radican	11-14-2000	
		6,157,915		Bhaskaran et al.	12-05-2000	
		6,263,317	B1	Sharp et al.	07-17-2001	
		6,324,522	B2	Peterson et al.	11-27-2001	
		6,477,513	B1	Walker et al.	11-05-2002	
		6,393,408	B1	Mosher et al.	05-21-2002	
		2002/0019761	A1	Lidow	02-14-2002	
		2002/0087371	A1	Abendroth	07-04-2002	
		2002/0019759	A1	Arunapuram et al.	02-14-2002	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>
		Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition, Microsoft Press, 1999, pages 167, 242, 334, 421, 443, 444 and 462	
		Information on Deal Time International, 1999-2002, printed through www.archive.org	

<b>Examiner Signature</b>		<b>Date Considered</b>	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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